

**PRESS RELEASE ON AUGUST PERCHLORATE FORUMS/DRAFT (7/28/98)**

- For immediate release: July 25, 1998
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- *STAKEHOLDER FORUMS ON PERCHLORATE TO BE HELD  
AUGUST 25 & AUGUST 27, 1998*

Jointly released by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 and Region 9

(San Francisco/Denver) -- The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) will hold two stakeholder forums: Tuesday, August 25, 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah from 8am-5pm with an evening public session from 7pm-9pm, and Thursday, August 27, 1998 in Phoenix, Arizona from 8:30am-5:30pm. The agenda for the forums is the same in both cities.

The purpose of the forums is to disseminate information on the key scientific issues, to identify additional issues, and to hear stakeholder concerns related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment. Forum sessions will cover a broad range of topics including background and occurrence, health effects and toxicology studies, analytical techniques, ecological impacts, regulatory and policy issues, and future stakeholder involvement.

The IPSC is seeking input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, public water systems, public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms, and other members of the public, and encourages the full participation of stakeholders at the forums.

Perchlorate ( $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ) is a man-made inorganic salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in the pyrotechnics industry. Perchlorate in its various chemical forms is essentially as soluble as table salt, can persist for decades in the environment, and easily dissolves and moves through both groundwater and surface water. Perchlorate from at least 14 separate sources has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California, in detectable concentrations in the Colorado River from sources in Nevada, and in surface or groundwater in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland, and Arkansas. The perchlorate manufacturers estimate that approximately 90% of perchlorate is used for solid rocket fuel.

There remain many uncertainties concerning the toxicity and environmental effects of perchlorate. In high dosages, perchlorate interferes with thyroid activity, and potassium perchlorate has been used to treat hyperthyroidism resulting from a condition known as Graves' disease. Studies are now underway to evaluate other potential health and environmental effects.

To register for one of the forums, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791 or 703-285-1093 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EDT or by sending an e-mail message to: [hotline-sdwa@epa.gov](mailto:hotline-sdwa@epa.gov). There is no registration fee for the stakeholder forum, but participants should pre-register. Those registered by August 17, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information, and discussion papers prior to the forum. For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The IPSC is a working partnership of governmental agencies chartered to facilitate and coordinate issues related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment. The members of the IPSC as of July 1998 are: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the California Department of Health Services, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Department of Health Laboratories, the Cocopah Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Quechan Indian Tribe.

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